

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, XF, LI, US, IS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

1. IN TWO IDENTICAL NOTES DELIVERED TO EMBASSY SUNDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 16, 1973, GOL MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTED FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE DELIVERED PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRIME MINISTER MEIR QUOTE FELLOW CITIZENS AND FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN OUR MIDST, DR. WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, WHO HAS CONTINUINGLY DEMONSTRATED A DEEP AND ABIDING CONCERN FOR PEACE AND WHO HAS PERSISTENTLY TAKEN INITIATIVES WITH THE SINCERE HOPE THAT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE WILL BE OCCASIONED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DIRECTS THAT I BRING YOU THIS MESSAGE ON THE EVE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO CONVENE IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1973.

OVER THE PAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS, FOUR TERRIBLE AND DESTRUCTIVE WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES WHICH HAS RESULTED HAS BEEN TRAGIC FOR THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES, THE COUNTRIES WHOSE SONS AND DAUGHTERS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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FALLEN, AND INDEED FOR ALL MANKIND, BECAUSE IN OUR ONE WORLD WE SHARE A COMMON HUMANITY.

THESE WARS HAVE ALSO CAUSED THE WANTON DESTRUCTION OF

PROPERTY, AND THE DIVERSION OF EFFORTS AND MUCH NEEDED CAPITAL FROM THE TASK OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLES OF THESE AREAS TO THE MANUFACTURE AND PURCHASE OF IMPLEMENTS DESIGNED TO DESTROY HUMAN LIFE.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY WARFARE: WHAT HAS FOLLOWED EACH WAR HAS PROVED NOT TO BE PEACE, BUT ONLY A DANGEROUS LULL BETWEEN THE BATTLES, AND EACH WAR HAS MERELY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE NEXT WITH MOUNTING HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES.

AS IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT A GENUINE AND LASTING PEACE CAN NEVER BE ATTAINED BY MILITARY MEANS ALONE; THAT NO NATION AND PEOPLE CAN TRULY FEEL SECURE, HOWEVER DEFENSIBLE THEIR BORDERS, PRESIDENT TOLBERT CONTINUES TO STRESS THAT THOSE UNDERLYING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH NURTURE SUSPICION, INTOLERANCE, AND ENMITY BETWEEN PEOPLES MUST BE SQUARELY CONFRONTED AND JUSTLY AND FAIRLY RESOLVED.

IT IS THE FERVENT HOPE OF THE PRESIDENT THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS A MOMENTOUS OCCASION FOR IT REPRESENTS THE BEST HOPE FOR THE REALIZATION OF SUCH A PEACE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

THE PRESIDENT IS AWARE THAT THE REACHING OF AN UNDERSTANDING WILL NOT BE EASY; THAT DIFFICULT ISSUES MUST BE CONSIDERED AND RESOLVED, AND THAT THE FEARS AND MISTRUSTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ENGENDERED OVER THE YEARS CANNOT BE EASILY SWEEPED AWAY. HOWEVER, IT IS HIS PRAYERFUL HOPE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR ENHANCING THE PEACE FOR OUR ONE WORLD, AND FOR ELIMINATED OFFICIAL USE  
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NATING THE DANGER OF WAR WILL NOT BE LOST. IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE. I THEREFORE, IN THE NAME OF DR. WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, CALL UPON THOSE WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THESE CRITICAL DELIBERATIONS TO BE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF PERSEVERANCE, GENUINE GOODWILL, UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE AND RECONCILIATION WHICH SURELY CAN LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BENEFICIAL, PEACEFUL, AND FRUITFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THIS TROUBLED REGION OF OUR WORLD. IN THIS REGARD, LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA REMAINS UNCHANGED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 PROVIDES THE BEST

BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT JUST AND LASTING PEACE  
SO URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

LIFE IS PRICELESS. EACH MAN ALIKE WISHES TO LIVE OUT  
HIS LIFE IN PEACE, SO THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE HIS  
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS GOOD EARTH WHICH BY GOD'S GIFT WE  
ALL SHARE. EACH HOPES, GOD WILLING, TO DEVELOP HIS  
INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, TO ENJOY THE LOVE AND AFFECTION  
OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, TO EXPERIENCE THE LIFE OF THIS  
WORLD IN FREEDOM AND WITH HUMAN DIGNITY. FOR SO MANY IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST, THESE BASIC DESIRES AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS  
HAVE NOT BEEN OBTAINABLE, NOR WILL THEY BE UNLESS THE  
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF PEACE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA  
THIS WEEK MEET WITH A TIMELY MEASURES OF SUCCESS.

THOSE OF US WHO BY GOD'S MERCY AND GOODNESS ARE SPARED THE  
TRAVAIL, THE TERROR, AND THE TRAGEDY OF WAR, HAVE A SPECIAL  
DUTY SPIRITUALLY TO BE WITH THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE,  
TO JOIN IN THEIR HOPES FOR PEACE AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME  
IN WHICH WE LIVE.

IN THE NAME OF DR. WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, I THEREFORE CALL UPON LIBERIANS  
OF ALL FAITHS AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AS WELL AS FOREIGN  
RESIDENTS WITHIN OUR BORDERS, TO JOIN WITH HIM AND HIS  
FAMILY IN SAYING A SPECIAL PRAYER IN OUR HOMES, CHURCHES,

MOSQUES OR WHEREVER WE MAY BE THAT THE ALMIGHTY, THE  
PRINCE OF PEACE, WILL SO GUIDE AND DIVINELY INSPIRE  
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THOSE WHO WILL MEET IN GENEVA ON TUESDAY THAT THEIR EFFORTS  
TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST WILL BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS.

IN THE NAME OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT, I FURTHER CALL UPON ALL  
CHURCHES, MOSQUES, AND PLACES OF WORSHIP TO PRAY FOR PEACE  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AROUND THE WORLD; TO INVOKE THE  
MERCIFUL AND DIVINE INTERCESSION OF HIM WHO IS THE FINAL  
ABRITER OF HUMAN DESTINY.

MAY THOSE PRECIOUS LIVES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST  
THROUGH THE SUCCESSIVE WARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROVE NOT  
TO HAVE BEEN LOST IN VAIN; MAY A LASTING PEACE BASED ON  
JUSTICE, FORGED THROUGH UNDERSTANDING, AND TEMPERED BY THE  
SPIRIT OF GIVE AND TAKE, AND GENUINE GOODWILL, AT LONG  
LAST COME TO REIGN IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR ALL PEOPLES,  
FOR ALL TIME, THROUGHOUT OUR ONE WORLD.  
UNQUOTE.

2. ASSUME DEPT WILL INSTRUCT TEL AVIV RE DELIVERY TO

PRIME MINISTER MEIR.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS READ TEXT OF MESSAGE ON  
TELEVISION SATURDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 15, AND DECEMBER 16  
SUNDAY EXPRESS AND DECEMBER 17 LIBERIAN STAR CARRIED  
STORIES CONCERNING STATEMENT. NEITHER INDICATED MESSAGE  
WAS TO BE FORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND  
PRIME MINISTER MEIR.  
MANFULL

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## Message Attributes

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